



SOVEREIGN BOND PROMOTION

Govt to hold roadshows in HK, NYC, London

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government will hold roadshows in London, New York and Hong Kong in preparation for the sovereign bond issue.

The development comes after Prime Minister Tarique Rahman gave approval earlier this month to the issuance of sovereign bond of less than $1 billion, The Daily Star has learnt from finance ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

American investment bank JP Morgan and Hong Kong-based consultancy firm Bridgeworks International will be commissioned to facilitate the bond issue and provide technical support.

The coupon rate, the duration of the roadshows and other modalities are yet to be finalised.

Since Bangladesh is issuing sovereign bonds for the first time, there is no reference rate. So, the coupon rate will be finalised after discussion with issue managers.

American investment bank JP Morgan and Hong Kong-based consultancy firm Bridgeworks International will be commissioned to facilitate the bond issue and provide technical support.

JP Morgan will manage the selection of legal counsel and trustees, prepare the offering circular, organise investor roadshows, market the issue and determine the optimal timing and issue structure.

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A wooden boat lies stranded amid thick layers of sludge and floating waste on Gulshan Lake in the capital. Once known for its scenic beauty, the lake is now severely polluted by sewage and garbage, emitting a foul stench. Twelve sewage discharge points have been identified along the lake. Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has directed the authorities to take immediate measures to stop sewage and polluted water from entering it. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

FERTILISER DEALER APPOINTMENT

JS committee seeks probe into alleged irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Agriculture yesterday voiced concern over allegations of irregularities, political influence and bribery in the appointment of fertiliser dealers in several districts, and called for investigations and action if claims are proven.

The concerns were raised during a committee meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban that reviewed fertiliser stocks, distribution and dealer appointments.

At least three committee members alleged that fertiliser dealerships had been awarded to Awami League supporters in exchange for money. One opposition member claimed political affiliation had become the primary criterion for selecting dealers, sidelining experienced and qualified applicants.

According to meeting sources, at least three committee members alleged that fertiliser dealerships had been awarded to Awami League supporters in exchange for money. One opposition member claimed political affiliation had become the primary criterion for selecting dealers, sidelining experienced and qualified applicants.

Following the meeting, the committee recommended that allegations related to dealer appointments in Lalmonirhat, Barguna, Satkhira, Faridpur, Naogaon and Jashore be thoroughly examined and addressed.

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SNAP POLLS VICTORY

Serbian student movement gets ready to govern

AFP, *Belgrade*

Serbia's student-led movement is preparing to govern, ending 14 years of right-wing populist rule.

The victory in Sunday's parliamentary vote came after nearly two years of anti-government protests sparked by the 2024 collapse of a canopy at Novi Sad railway station that killed 16 people.

The disaster has been widely blamed on corruption and triggered some of Serbia's largest protests since the fall of strongman Slobodan Milosevic in 2000.

The result will be closely watched across Europe as the continent faces a wave of youth-led demonstrations. But political analyst Dusan Vucicevic said that the movement was distinct from other protests.

"This experiment in grassroots democracy ultimately succeeded in securing more than 50 percent of the vote, although it remains unclear whether a similar model could work in other countries," Vucicevic told AFP.

According to independent electoral watchdog CeSID, the Students' List secured 53 percent of the vote while Vucic's populist Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) garnered almost 39 percent based on 96 percent of the count.

The result would give them 140 MPs in

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Houthi missile sites destroyed in Yemen

Says Saudi coalition after Riyadh airport attack; Egypt okays military support for KSA

AGENCIES

The Saudi-led military coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis struck several of its missile launchers and storage facilities, a spokesman said yesterday, while the Iran-backed group claimed a new attack on Riyadh's international airport.

The coalition's operation came a day after explosions rattled Saudi Arabia's capital and authorities sent text messages to residents warning them of a "hostile aerial threat" to the city, which has been heavily targeted by the Houthis in recent weeks.

Makkah pact officials to meet Iran officials in Tehran | Widening UAE oil spill prompts more beach closures | US helped Gulf export 1.5bn barrels through Hormuz

The Saudi-led military coalition's spokesman Turki al-Maliki posted on X that the operation had destroyed four ballistic missile launchers, as well as a missile depot and tunnels used by the Houthis, who control a large part of Yemen, reports AFP.

The operation "focused on cutting off Houthi militia supply lines between areas under their control," he added. The group has carried out waves of strikes on the King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, including an attack this month that killed 13 people.

Meanwhile, Egypt's parliament yesterday authorised its military to provide

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'Brazil is no one's backyard'

Says Trump critic Lula after winning fourth presidential term

AGENCIES

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won a fourth presidential term after defeating conservative challenger Flávio Bolsonaro in Sunday's runoff election, with the electoral authority confirming his victory and extending left-wing leadership in Latin America's largest economy.

Addressing supporters in São Paulo after his re-election, Lula, a vocal critic of



US President Donald Trump, said, "BRAZIL IS NO ONE'S BACKYARD," in an apparent swipe at US influence in the region, after defeating Flávio Bolsonaro, who had advocated closer ties with the Trump administration.

He also called for the regulation of digital platforms, claiming Brazil had

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Radomir Saicic, a chemistry professor and candidate on the student-backed electoral list, celebrates the Students' List victory in the Serbian parliamentary elections on stage with other candidates and supporters at their headquarters in Belgrade on Sunday evening. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN FOCUS

Jubo Dal leader expelled over FB post on home boss

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

A local leader of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal in Tangail was expelled from the party allegedly for 'violating party's discipline by making inappropriate comment about the government and the party's senior leaders in social media'.

SM Rafiqul Bari, who was serving as the senior joint convener of Tangail's Sakhipur upazila unit Jubo Dal, was expelled following a Facebook post on Friday.

"I am mentally hurt. I want resignation of the home minister," read the Facebook post.

He, however, did not clarify the reasons for his grievance or the context in which he made this demand.

Following his expulsion, Rafiqul

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Woman sent to jail over remarks criticising BNP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A Mymensingh court yesterday sent a woman to jail this afternoon after she allegedly expressed frustration with the BNP government during a Facebook Live session over the theft of electrical wires from her business.

The woman, identified as Sathi Akter, owns a beauty parlour in Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh.

Sathi went live twice on Facebook from an account named "Sathi Makeover" at around 2:00pm on Sunday, expressing anger over repeated thefts at her business.

At one point, she said, "I voted for the BNP government, and now I am the sufferer."

As the videos circulated on social media and tension reportedly escalated, police took her into

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